

The MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES...

where history begins



Published by Robin Carnahan, Secretary of State
in partnership with the Friends of the Missouri State Archives

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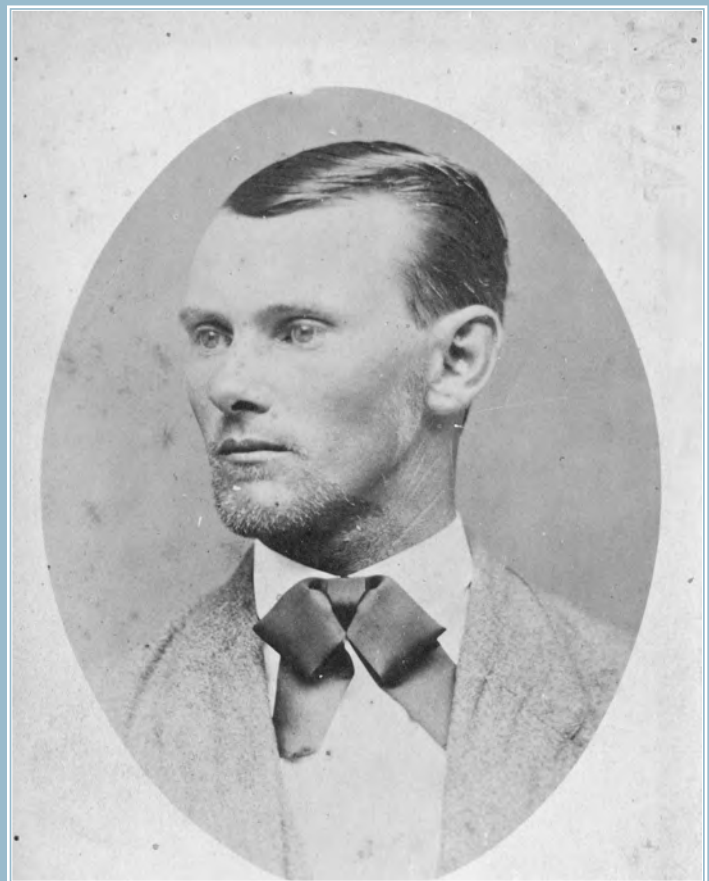
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Jesse James
Missouri State Archives

Friends of the
Missouri State  *Archives*

Winter 2008

*Missouri State Archives...
where history begins*

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*Friends of the
Missouri State Archives*

From the State Archivist

As the new State Archivist, I would like to introduce myself to the historical and archival community of Missouri. By education, vocation and training I am an archivist, record manager and historian. By focus, philosophy and inclination I am a diligent advocate for using technology to provide direct access to public records. My love is history. My passion is public service.

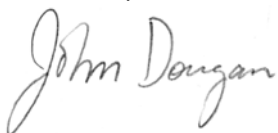
I am very excited to be coming to Missouri to work with such an excellent organization and staff. As the new Missouri Digital Heritage Initiative expands, the state's most interesting and highly requested records will be easily available online. Archives, Records Management and Local Records will continue to provide friendly, efficient, cost effective reference, programming and service for researchers, the general public and government offices. Please let me know if you have suggestions for improving access to our records.

I hold a B.A in History and a B.S. in Teaching Social Studies from Freed-Hardeman University and an M.A. in History from the University of Memphis. I have worked my entire archival career at the Shelby County Archives (<http://register.shelby.tn.us>). My research and publication interests include free persons of color, the Battle of Memphis, historical photography, and the West Tennessee Historical Society Papers.

My wife Patricia and I have been married for 17 years and we have two children, Hunter and Heather. My interests outside of history and archives include church and vegetable gardening.

I want to thank the staff of the Record Services Division and Secretary of State Robin Carnahan for the opportunity to serve the citizens of the State of Missouri. With their leadership, I believe the future of our past is very bright.

Sincerely,



John Dougan
State Archivist



Archives Afield!

Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas Project

Renae Farris

Local Records Field Archivist

In the book *The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson*, Mark Twain depicted a court case occurring in a small Mississippi River town in Missouri called "Dawson's Landing." Literary scholars believe that Twain's fictional town was based upon Cape Girardeau. It is easy to imagine Twain, whose early career was as a riverboat pilot, being familiar with the town, just 217 miles south of Hannibal, and its Court of Common Pleas.

The Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas, created in 1851, shared jurisdiction over civil cases with the Cape Girardeau Circuit Court. It was unique among Common Pleas Courts in hearing probate cases and, exclusively, appeals from the Cape Girardeau City Recorder's Court. Most Common Pleas Courts were dissolved in the 1870s, but the Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas survived until 1979. The court's records are currently housed at the Cape Girardeau County Archives Center in Jackson, where employees and interns of the Local Records Preservation Program, working in conjunction with county staff, are processing the files and creating a database in preparation for micro-filming.

Because of the variety of actions before the court, the records provide a great breadth and depth of information. Among these actions are divorces, title disputes, property partitions, and actions for debt. While these actions are mundane, their very commonplace nature offers insight into the daily lives of their subjects. For example, when a doctor sued to collect payment for services, the court records provided a clear look into the illness and treatment of the patient, in addition to the actual cost of the care. Debt cases can also illustrate social issues, such as immigration. The sale of the estate of Jean Simon S.

Peyramale, a French immigrant, demonstrates the human struggle to succeed in a new land. Among the property inventory were 1,000 grape vines, purchased to establish a vineyard. These were sold to support his wife and children.

Other topics and themes found in the project include insights into material culture through litigation relating to construction; the complexities of slavery, including the hiring of, purchase of, disposition of and maintenance of slaves; property surveys; long-distance river and overland trade relationships throughout the Midwest and extending to the Southern and Eastern States; the development of local indus-

try, notably sawmills and gristmills; and topics related to the Civil War. This project, while focused on records from Southeast Missouri, reveals much about the history of the state, region and nation.

The processed records from this project have already revealed a great deal about mid-nineteenth century Missouri, and as the project moves forward these records will continue to provide us with more and better information about the history of Cape Girardeau, Southeast Missouri, and the Mississippi River Valley.



Steve Pledger, Director of the Cape Girardeau County Archives Center, processes one of the county's historic common pleas cases.

The Missouri State Archives' mission is to foster an appreciation of Missouri history and illuminate contemporary public issues by preserving and making available the state's permanent records to its citizens and their government.

Picture This: The Louise and Omar Putman Photograph Collection at the Missouri State Archives

Laura R. Jolley
Visual Materials Archivist

When Louise Murphy married Omar Putman after the death of his wife in 1936, she immediately took on the role of homemaker and mother to his four daughters. In addition to that, she also learned to share Omar's passion for photography. Louise and Omar spent their married life traveling through Kansas and Missouri taking photographs of the people they encountered and the places they loved. They would develop and mount their photos in their basement darkroom. Although never professional photographers, they entered their work into various photograph contests and belonged to national photo clubs.



Feminine Support, by Louise Putman
Missouri State Archives, Louise and Omar Putman Photograph Collection



Men and Steel, by Omar Putman
Missouri State Archives, Louise and Omar Putman Photograph Collection

Omar and Louise lived a typical Midwestern life and neither had any formal training in photography. Both, however, were gifted with a good eye for pictures. Omar, born in 1886, was a postal worker in Raytown, Missouri, and had a carpentry workshop in his basement along with the darkroom. Louise, born in Kansas in 1904, attended college at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas, and did one year of graduate work at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. What brought them together is unknown, but it is clear through their photos that they loved their family and their hobby.



Kansas City Farmers Market, by Louise Putman
Missouri State Archives, Louise and Omar Putman Photograph Collection



Potato Loader, by Louise Putman
Missouri State Archives, Louise and Omar Putman Photograph Collection

Omar and Louise loved to capture shapes and light in their photography. They experimented with exposures and papers to create different affects. The collection consists primarily of portraits, agricultural and industrial scenes, and many images documenting Kansas City life and buildings. Many of the photographs capture the variety of structures one would find today while driving through northern Missouri or Kansas, such as water towers, barns, and silos. The Putmans photographed these structures to capture their unique shapes against the rural landscape.



Barn and Silo, by Louise Putman
Missouri State Archives, Louise and Omar Putman Photograph Collection



Natural Gas Storage, Somewhere in the Midwest, by Louise Putman
Missouri State Archives, Louise and Omar Putman Photograph Collection

When Omar died in 1962, Louise remarried and no longer spent all of her time in a darkroom. She died in 1996 at the age of 92. However, because of the generous donation of over 300, large format, mounted prints from her nephews Curtis and Kelly Carle, the photographs she and Omar developed throughout the 1940s and 1950s can now be enjoyed at the Missouri State Archives.

Frank and Jesse James Civil Case Found

The only known civil case against Frank and Jesse James, filed in the Common Pleas Court of Daviess County in 1870, has recently been discovered. In this case, Daniel Smoote sought \$223.50 from the James brothers for a horse, saddle, and bridle stolen as the brothers fled the robbery of the Daviess County Savings Association in Gallatin on December 7, 1869. During the hold up, John Sheets, the bank owner and cashier, was murdered by Jesse, who misidentified him as Samuel P. Cox, the man responsible for the death of Bloody Bill Anderson.

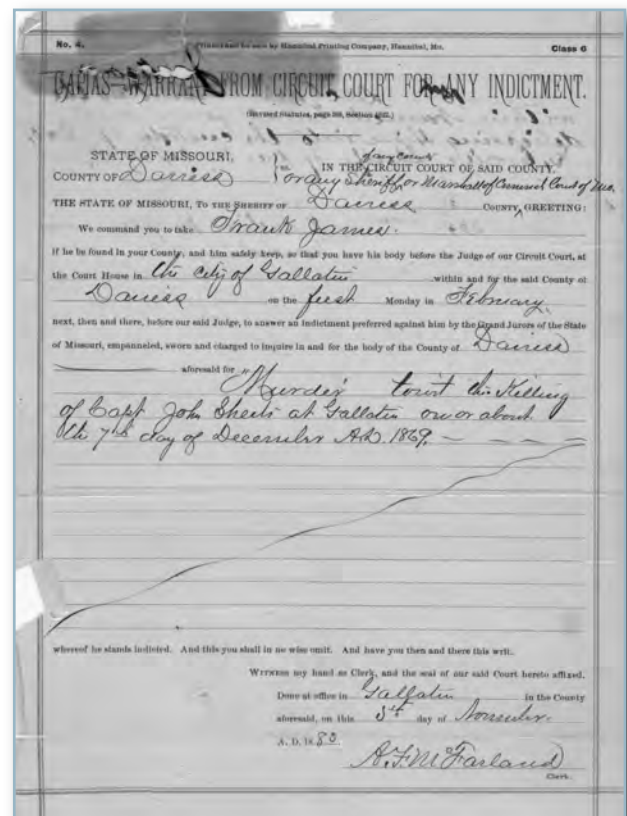
Frank and Jesse denied Smoote's charge, claiming they were not in Daviess County on the day of the robbery, but, when the brothers failed to appear in court, Smoote won his case of attachment against them. Nevertheless, there is no surviving documentation among the records of the Daviess County Circuit Court that indicates Smoote ever received payment from the James brothers for his lost property.

When this unique case was discovered, it was sent to the Missouri State Archives for conservation treatment and analysis. Conservators performed several measures to ensure preservation of the case file, including removal of adhesive tape, the mending of tears, and humidification to flatten wrinkles and folds in the documents.

In addition to the Smoote case, Sue Bird, Daviess County Circuit Clerk, provided all surviving county records related to the James brothers to the staff of the Missouri State Archives Local Records Preservation Program for review, conservation treatment and preservation microfilming. As a collection, these documents reveal many of the brothers' activities during the late nineteenth century and include several indictments showing criminal charges ranging from grand larceny to murder. These records also provide a glimpse into the life of other prominent Missourians of the

time, such as Confederate Brigadier General Joseph Shelby, who was fined \$10 for contempt when he testified on behalf of Frank James while intoxicated. Shelby was a witness in the 1882 trial of Frank for the murder of Frank McMillan and William Westfall during the robbery of the train at Winston on July 15, 1881.

Until now, none of these records have been properly ordered, microfilmed, or tracked through court record books to expand upon information found in the surviving documents of the original case files. This means that much of the information has never been considered by historians and will shed new light on litigation involving Frank and Jesse James in Northwest Missouri. As a result of the partnership between the Daviess County Circuit Clerk's office and the Missouri State Archives, the newly discovered Smoote case, and other records related to the James brothers found in Daviess County, can now be easily accessed by historians and the general public.



**Indictment against Frank James for the murder of John Sheets
Daviess County Circuit Clerk's Office**

Archives Helps Preserve the Story of Old Drum

On October 28, 1869, Old Drum, a prized hunting dog, was shot and killed, sparking one of Missouri's most interesting court battles. Original records related to the case were recently treated by conservators at the Missouri State Archives, ensuring their preservation for future generations. In addition, the Archives used the documents to create an online lesson plan that will share the heritage of Old Drum with Missouri students.

The story of Old Drum begins four years after the Civil War, when farming was starting to



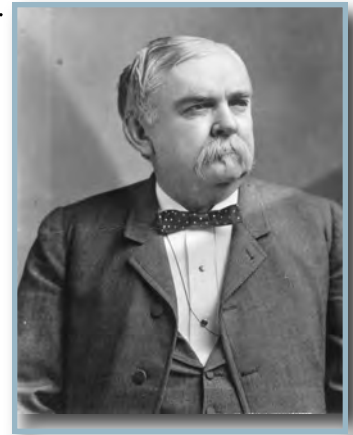
Memorial to Old Drum in Warrensburg
Missouri State Archives

Leonidas Hornsby was doing his best to operate a successful farm, but he was struggling to defend his flock of sheep from the constant threat of prowling dogs and wolves. As a result, he made a vow to kill the first stray dog that appeared on his property.

Hornsby had the chance to make good on that promise when a dog wandered into

return to the war-torn western counties of Missouri. Lands once plundered by guerillas and raiders were beginning to support families attempting to farm and raise livestock.

his yard one late October evening. He instructed his young nephew Samuel "Dick" Ferguson to shoot the dog with a gun loaded with corn, hoping to frighten the dog but not kill it. According to Ferguson, after the dog was shot it yelped in pain, jumped over the fence, and disappeared.



George Graham Vest, author of
Eulogy of the Dog
Missouri State Archives

Neighbors heard the howling of the wounded dog as it grew fainter and finally died away. One of those neighbors, Hornsby's brother-in-law Charles Burden, remembered Hornsby's threat and feared the worst. He called his dogs, but his favorite hound dog, Old Drum, did not come.

The next morning, Burden found Old Drum dead, lying with his head in the water on the banks of Big Creek. Old Drum appeared to have died from multiple shots of different sizes, none of which had completely penetrated his body. Unable to let the death of Old Drum go unpunished, Burden filed a lawsuit for damages against Hornsby.

The ensuing court battle, *Burden v. Hornsby*, is most famous for the closing remarks of Burden's attorney and future U.S. Senator George Graham Vest, whose speech *Eulogy of the Dog* originated the saying "A man's best friend is his dog." Vest made this speech in his final appeal to the jury,

George G. Vest EULOGY OF THE DOG¹ September 23, 1870 (Warrensburg, Missouri)

Gentlemen of the jury. The best friend a man has in the world may turn against him and become his enemy. His son or daughter whom he has reared with loving care may prove ungrateful. Those who are nearest and dearest to us, those whom we trust with our happiness and our good name, may become traitors to their faith. The money that a man has he may lose. It flies away from him perhaps when he needs it most. A man's reputation may be sacrificed in a moment of ill-considered action. The people who are prone to fall on their knees to do us honor when success is with us may be the first to throw the stone of malice when failure settles its cloud upon our heads. The one absolutely unselfish friend that a man can have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous, is the dog.

Gentlemen of the jury, a man's dog stands by him in prosperity and in poverty, in health and

in sickness. He will sleep on the cold ground when the wintry winds blow and the snow drives fiercely, if only he can be near his master's side. He will lick the hand that has no food to offer, he will lick the wounds and sores that come in encounter with the roughness of the world. He guards the sleep of his pauper master as if he were a prince.

When all other friends desert, he remains. When riches take wings and reputation falls to pieces, he is as constant in his love as the sun in its journey through the heavens. If fortune drives the master forth an outcast into the world, friendless and homeless, the faithful dog asks no higher privilege than that of accompanying him, to guard him against danger, to fight against his enemies. And when the last scene of all comes, and death takes his master in its embrace and his body is laid in the cold ground, no matter if all other friends pursue their way, there by his graveside will the noble dog be found, his head between his paws and his eyes sad but open, in alert watchfulness, faithful and true, even unto death.

¹ U.S., Congress, Senate, *Congressional Record*, 101st Cong., 2d sess., pp. 54822-24 (daily edition).

winning the case for Burden who received \$50 for the loss of his beloved dog.

The 1870 *Burden v. Hornsby* case file from the Johnson County Court of Common Pleas was sent to the Archives conservation lab, Missouri's only publicly-funded lab for historical documents, for analysis and treatment. Conservators mended torn pages, removed adhesives, and used a process known as humidification to flatten pages folded and wrinkled over time.

After treatment, the documents were utilized in the creation of an interactive lesson plan, *Man's Best Friend: The Old Drum Story*, for grades 9 to 12. In addition to sharing with students an important part of Missouri's past, the educational resource uses the case's journey from a Justice of the Peace to the Missouri Supreme Court to teach students how the judicial system operates, exposing them to a number of original historical documents.

The documents were then presented to the Johnson County Historical Society, which returned the records to the Old Courthouse, where the trial was held, for the first public display ever available. Although the display ended on October 30, the documents will continue to be accessible to researchers and other interested parties through the Johnson County Historical Society, which can be reached at (660) 747-6480.

To view the online lesson plan and images of many of the original documents, please visit www.sos.mo.gov/archives/education/olddrum.

Donations to Friends of the Missouri State Archives as of October 31, 2007

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Individual Contributions

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Sue Thomas, Kansas City
Robert P. Wieggers, Fayette
Kenneth H. Winn, Jefferson City

Winter 2008 Program Calendar

River Ridge String Band

January 10, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

The River Ridge String Band is a new group on the folk music scene in Missouri. Band members Cliff White, Molly White, John Cuning and Charlie Nelson come from various parts of Missouri with distinctly different backgrounds,



but they all share a love of music. The musically versatile group combines the hammered dulcimer, mandolin, guitar, banjo, accordion, vocals and folk percussion

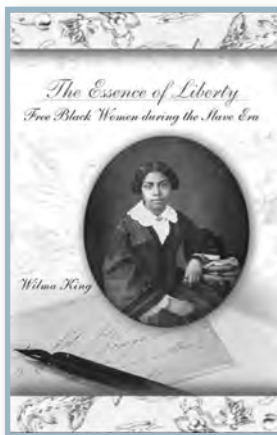
instruments to produce an interesting mix of old-time fiddle tunes and traditional Irish music. Most of the tunes in the band's repertoire originated as dance tunes in Scotland, Ireland and England. The jigs, reels and hornpipes they play were all part of country dances in the British Isles. Today these "fiddle tunes" are the mainstay for a form of American folk dance known as contra dancing and are played during traditional Irish and Scottish gatherings known as ceilidhs. Along with these tunes, the band adds a few classic Bluegrass songs and a variety of ballads and waltzes to create music that is enjoyable for all ages.

The Essence of Liberty: Free Black Women During the Slave Era

February 21, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

Free black women have not been included in most general histories of African-Americans, but Wilma King's fresh perspective and extensive research on the subject are helping to fill that void. Utilizing a wealth of primary sources, including legal documents, newspapers, letters and autobiographical writings, King sheds light on the under-studied topic of black women who became free before emancipation. She examines

how these women gained their freedom, educated themselves, found jobs, maintained self-esteem,



and developed a social consciousness. King emphasizes the restraints that racism placed on free blacks, revealing that the essence of freedom is more complicated than merely the absence of shackles. Wilma King has a joint appointment in the Department of History and Black Studies at the University of Missouri,

where she also holds the Arvarh E. Strickland Distinguished Professorship in African-American History.

Family History Day: How to Care for Family Photographs and Documents

March 8, 2008, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

This year's Family History Day workshop will offer advice on how to care for and organize family photographs and documents. Visual Materials Archivist Laura Jolley will discuss how to get photographs out of shoe boxes and into a more practical and safe environment. Senior Archivist Patsy Luebbert will explore the importance of keeping family documents, such as marriage licenses, birth certificates, land deeds and military records, secure. Luebbert will also address the problem of where to locate duplicates of permanent records if they have been lost or destroyed.



Charles Elliott Gill Collection, Missouri State Archives

Recent Accessions, August – October 2007

The Missouri State Archives provides this listing to advise the research community of recent accessions of state and local government records. The reference staff at the Archives facility can provide further information on Missouri State Archives holdings.

Accessions are listed by the amount received in cubic feet or microfilm reels, with each cubic foot equaling approximately 2,750 pages of documents, and each microfilm reel containing between 1,500 and 2,500 images per reel.

Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Records

General Assembly.

House of Representatives. Records from the 94th General Assembly, 1st Session. 200726 cubic ft.
Senate. Records from the 94th General Assembly, 1st Session. 2007.18 cubic ft.
Standing Legislative Committees. Senate. Appropriations Committee Records. 1992-2006.12 cubic ft.

Department of Conservation.

Leroy Korschgen Plant Illustrations and Reports. 1980-1983.2 cubic ft.

Department of Corrections and Human Services.

Fulton Reception and Diagnostic Center. Records. 1931-1997.50 cubic ft.
Missouri State Penitentiary. Inmate Mug Shots. 1900-1920.46 negative images

Department of Natural Resources.

State Historic Preservation Office Records. 2007.2 cubic ft.

Department of Public Safety. Missouri National Guard. Adjutant General.

World War I Soldiers' Bonus Vouchers. 1917-1973.2 cubic ft.

Missouri Court of Appeals.

Eastern District. Case Files (Case Numbers 84585-88401). 2004-2006.51 cubic ft.

Supreme Court of Missouri.

Case Files (Case Numbers 85705-87971). May 2006 Session.34 cubic ft.

County and Municipal Records

Hickory County.

Recorder of Deeds. Records. March 2007-June 2007.2 reels

Jackson County.

Circuit Court. Case Files. 1959-1963.200 reels

Laclede County.

Recorder of Deeds. Records. October 2006 and February 2007-May 2007.4 reels

Lawrence County.

Circuit Court. Case Files. 1842-1892.11 reels

Lincoln County.

Circuit Court. Case Files. 1819-1841.11 reels

Macon County.

Recorder of Deeds. Records. January 2007-May 2007.3 reels

Mercer County.

Recorder of Deeds. Records. June 2006-April 2007.2 reels

Montgomery County.

Recorder of Deeds. Records. September 2006-May 2007.5 reels

Osage County.

Circuit Court. Case Files (Criminal). 1849-1900.7 reels

Pemiscot County.

Recorder of Deeds. Records. 1882-1998.69 reels

Polk County.

Collector. Taxes. 2004-2006.7 reels

St. Charles County.

Circuit Court. Case Files. 1805-1835.8 reels

St. Clair County.

Collector of Revenue. Records. 1999-2004.14 reels

St. Louis County.

Circuit Court. Records. 1804-1889.8 reels

Coroner. Inquests and Index. 1806-1839.

County Clerk. Records. 1802-1881.

Recorder of Deeds. Deeds (1805-1867); Land Surveys (1806-1851); Marriages (1830 and 1873).

Ste. Genevieve County.

Recorder of Deeds. Records. March 2007-August 2007.7 reels

Warren County.

Recorder of Deeds. Deeds. 2007.13 reels

Worth County.

Court. Case Files and Index (Criminal). 1861-1899.18 reels

Manuscripts and Miscellaneous

Callaway Family Association. *The Callaway Journal*. XXIII. 2007.1 vol.

Coughlin, Timothy. Political Button Collection. 1960-1980.50 items

Dorris, Gene, ed., *Dorris-Net*. 13.1 and 13.2. 2007.1 vol.

Evans, Katherine, ed., *McHuck Legacy*. 2004.1 vol.

Grand Army of the Republic. Records. 1884-1932.1 reel

Greer Family Association. *Newsletter*. 24.2. 2007.1 vol.

Henry County Church Records.1 reel

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Montrose. 1881-1961.

St. Ludger's Church, Germantown. 1832-1943.

National Grigsby Family Society. *Grigsby Gazette*. 25.2. August 2007.1 vol.

National Odom Assembly. *NOA News*. 24.3 and 25.1. 2007.2 vols.

Rickey, Stanton M. *Rickey Roots and Revels*. 18.68. September 2007.1 vol.

Donations to the Missouri State Archives, May - October 2007

Immigration, Family History and County Records

Chance, Jack

History of Centralia, Missouri, by Edgar T. Rodemyre.

Coonrod, J. Donald

Descendants of Moses Williams: Revolutionary War Soldier of North Carolina, Includes Allied Families of Tanner, Goode, Haskins, Ratley, Holcombe, Farmer, Layne, and Coonrod, by J. Donald Coonrod.

Goddard, Ruth Yvonne Mings

Mings, Minges, Minzes, Menzies, Minns, Menzes: Family History and Related Information, compiled by Ruth Goddard.

Greene County Archives and Records Center

History of Dade County and Her People.

Springfield City Directory.

Henson, Alice

St. Thomas Parish: Baptisms, Owings Mills, Maryland, 1732-1995.

St. Thomas Parish: Deaths and Burials, Owings Mills, Maryland, 1728-1995.

St. Thomas Parish Registers, 1732-1850.

Hofstetter, Janet

Annals of Henry County, Vol. 1, 1885-1900, compiled by Kathleen White Miles.

Centennial of Montrose, Missouri, 1871-1971.

1850 and 1860 Census of Henry County Missouri.

The Elder Daniel Burford: His Ancestors and Descendants of America (1684-1996), compiled by Mrs. Betty Arnold Loftiss.

The Handybook for Genealogists: United States of America, 8th ed.

Pettis County Missouri: A Pictorial History, by William B. Claycomb.

Pictorial Memories of Henry County Missouri, by the Henry County Historical Society.

Love, Kay and Don

The Heritage of Russellville in Cole County, by Reba Alexander Koester.

Mallinckrodt, Anita

Justice's Docket for Femme Osage Township.

Oaks, Mike

Coppage, Coppedge Chronicle II: 1542-1998, by Walter E. Overstreet.

Ripley County Historical Society

Ripley County Missouri: History and Heritage.

Weant, Kenneth

Transcriptions of:

Audrain County: Deaths and index to selected articles from the Mexico Intelligencer, 1904-1916, Vol. 2;

Marriages, Jan. 1, 1870-Dec. 31, 1899, Vol. 5; Marriages, Jan. 1, 1900-Feb. 6, 1917, Vol. 6.

Boone County: Marriages, Sept. 3, 1871-Dec. 31, 1899, Vol. 4; Dec. 1, 1900-April 26, 1919, Vol. 5.

Callaway County: Deaths and index to selected articles from miscellaneous Mokane papers, 1900-1926, Vol. 13; Deaths and index to selected articles from the Mokane Missourian, 1927-1948, Vol. 14; Marriages, Jan. 1, 1870-Dec. 31, 1899, Vol. 9.; Marriages, Jan. 1, 1900-Dec. 28, 1922, Vol. 10; 1844 Special Census, births and deaths, 1883-1888, Vol. 11.

Cole County: Deaths and index to selected articles from the Jefferson City Post Tribune, 1924-1930, Vol. 5.

Lafayette County: Deaths and index to selected articles from the Concordian, 1898-1915, Vol. 3.

Montgomery County: Deaths and index to selected articles from miscellaneous Montgomery County papers, 1898-1952, Vol. 15; Deaths and index to selected articles from miscellaneous Montgomery County papers, 1879-1952, Vol. 16; Deaths and index to selected articles from the Montgomery City Standard, 1951-1970, Vol. 5.

Wheatley, Sarah

Notebook of Mrs. Adolphus Washington Wheatley.

Military History

Black, Fran

Our Civil War Ancestors' Stories, by Frances Carver Black.

Weant, Kenneth

Transcriptions of:

Civil War Records: Union Troops-Enrolled Missouri Militia, Vol. 1; Enrolled Missouri Militia, Vol. 2;

Enrolled Missouri Militia, Vol. 3; Missouri Volunteer Calvary, Vol. 4; Missouri Volunteer Calvary, Vol. 5.

Missouri/United States History

Missouri Union Presbytery

Like Prairie Wildfire, Presbyterianism Spreads Westward: A Story of Missouri Union Presbytery, 1817-1997, by Kenneth R. Locke.

New Book Accessions, May - October 2007

Immigration, Family History and County Records

1770-1790 Census of the Cumberland Settlements: Davidson, Sumner, and Tennessee Counties (in What is Now Tennessee), compiled by Richard Carlton Fulcher.

A Compilation of the Original Lists of Protestant Immigrants to South Carolina, compiled by Janie Revill.

Index to the 1800 Census of South Carolina, compiled by Brent H. Holcomb.

Irish Genealogical Abstracts from the Londonderry Journal, 1772-1784, by Donald M. Schlegel.

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Archives Receives National Recognition for Disaster Preparedness

The Council of State Archivists (CoSA), an organization comprised of the directors of each state's primary archival agency, awarded the Missouri State Archives a national Certificate of Preparedness for its efforts to protect irreplaceable historical records from natural disasters and other threats. The certificate recognizes Missouri for conducting a detailed assessment of its ability to respond to disasters and preparing an emergency communication and response plan for its staff.

Within the holdings of the Missouri State Archives are invaluable pieces of Missouri's past, including the ordinance that abolished slavery, the will of William Clark, and Daniel Boone's land grant. The Archives staff works to ensure that, regardless of the challenges, these documents remain available to the people of Missouri, today and in the future.

Similar treasures can be found throughout the state at county courthouses, city halls, and other historical repositories. Field archivists and conservators from the Local Records Preservation Program assist the caretakers of these records by answering questions regarding disaster preparedness and providing referrals to businesses that are able to provide assistance during an emergency.

Recognition of the Missouri State Archives stems from a national effort to encourage disaster protection that was launched by CoSA following the 2005 hurricanes that devastated the Gulf Coast. The Missouri State Archives, along with the archival agencies of other states, has committed itself to supporting CoSA's work to ensure that important records survive such disasters. For more information on CoSA's Emergency Preparedness Initiative, please visit www.statearchivists.org/prepare/index.htm.

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